Amendments to the Specification:

[0013] The present invention is a multi-layer tube for connection to a motor vehicle system to transport fluids containing hydrocarbons such as in a fuel line, a vapor return line or vapor recovery line. The elongated multi-layer tube of the present invention includes a first layer disposed radially innermost and having an inner surface capable of prolonged exposure to a fluid containing hydrocarbons and an outer surface spaced a first predetermined radial thickness from the inner surface. The first layer consists essentially of an extrudable, melt-processible thermoplastic. A second layer has a second predetermined radial thickness equal to or less than the thickness of the first layer. The second layer is bonded to the outer surface of the first layer and consists essentially of an extrudable, melt processible thermoplastic capable of sufficiently permanent laminar adhesion with the outer surface of the first layer. A third layer has a third predetermined radial thickness greater than the thickness of the first layer. The third layer has an inner face capable of sufficiently permanent laminar adhesion to the second layer and an outer face. The third layer consists essentially of an extrudable, melt-processible thermoplastic. At least one layer of the multi-layer tube is capable of dissipating electrostatic energy. ~~in a range between about 10^{-4} to 10^{-9} Ohm/cm^2.~~

[0041] The material according to the fifth embodiment, also contains conductive media in quantities sufficient to permit electrostatic dissipation in a desired range. In the fifth embodiment, the electrostatic dissipation sub-layer 22 of the inner layer 14 exhibits electrostatic conductive characteristics capable of dissipating electrostatic charges. ~~in the range of 10^{-4} to 10^{-9} Ohm/cm^2.~~ Suitable material is commercially available under the trade name XPV-504KRC CEFRAL SOFT CONDUCTIVE.

[0047] In any of the embodiments disclosed, at least one layer, preferably the inner layer 14 and/or the intermediate bonding layer 16, may exhibit conductive characteristics rendering it capable of dissipation of electrostatic charge. ~~in the range of 10^{-4} to 10^{-9} Ohm/cm^2.~~ The fluoroplastic material employed in the conductive layer of the present invention may be inherently conductive in these ranges or, preferably, includes in its composition a conductive media in sufficient quantity to permit electrostatic dissipation in the range defined. The conductive media may be any suitable material of a composition and shape capable of effecting this static dissipation. The conductive material may be selected from the group consisting of

elemental carbon, stainless steel, highly conductive metals such as copper, silver, gold, nickel and silicon, and mixtures thereof. The term "elemental carbon" as used herein is employed to describe and include materials commonly referred to as "carbon black". The carbon black can be present in the form of carbon fibers, powders, spheres, and the like.

[0051] The intermediate bonding layer 16, in addition to permitting a homogeneous bond between the inner layer 14 and outer layer 12, and exhibiting resistance to permeation of fuel components, also may exhibit conductive or static dissipative characteristics such as those described previously. Thus, the intermediate bonding layer 16 may optionally include sufficient amounts of conductive media to effect electrostatic dissipation ~~in the range of 10^{-4} to 10^{-9} Ohm/cm^2~~. As with the inner layer 14, the intermediate bonding layer 16 may be inherently electrostatically dissipative or may be rendered so by the inclusion of certain conductive material such as those selected from the group consisting of elemental carbon, stainless steel, copper, silver, gold, nickel, silicon and mixtures thereof.

[0073] In the fourth embodiment of the invention, the outer jacket may, preferably, exhibit conductive characteristics in that it is capable of dissipation of electrostatic charge ~~in the range of 10^{-4} to 10^{-9} Ohm/cm^2~~. The material which composes the outer jacket may be inherently conductive in these ranges or, preferably, include in its composition a conductive media in sufficient quantity to permit electrostatic dissipation in the range defined. The conductive media may be any suitable material of a composition and shape capable of effecting this static dissipation. The conductive material may be selected from the group consisting of elemental carbon, stainless steel, highly conductive metals such as copper, silver, gold, nickel and silicon, and mixtures thereof. The term "elemental carbon" as used herein is employed to describe and include materials commonly referred to as "carbon black". The carbon black can be present in the form of carbon fibers, powders, spheres, and the like.